

and the income is primarily through dues and special events," he said.

Ramseur said he can understand why the Chamber may be viewed by some as just a "social club."

"I have tried to eliminate that label," Ramsey said.

"We do have social events, and we have fun, but you might meet somebody who you can talk to about refinancing or other business subjects.

"Networking is important and can't all be done online. They have to get out of their comfort zone."

He mentions the success of the legislative breakfasts, which are designed to help local businesses have quality time with their representatives in Raleigh and Washington.

"We have 200 coming in to those events, and the representatives are telling us the other counties do not have that kind of attendance," Ramsey said.

"Those things happen because the Chamber makes it happen. It's no accident and there's a lot of hard work that goes into promoting those events."

"I also tell people to give us a try for a year. Come to some meetings. Go to some of the seminars we're doing with Stanly Community College. Come to some business after hours. Come to some of our events and you'll meet somebody."

He said the organization has been responsible with its funds and owns its own building and has no debt.

"I'm also proud we have now built a reserve fund and we had a successful membership drive last year with 220 new members," Ramsey said.

One of the programs Ramsey said he is proud of helping to establish is the Career Academy for Educators.

The program brings teachers in to meet with existing businesses and educates them as to what skills are currently needed to supply the county's industries and businesses.

"The problem is many times getting teachers, counselors, parents and students to make realistic decisions. Everybody wants to go to Chapel Hill. Many people don't know how to cope after high school and a four-year degree is not always a ticket to a job," he said.

"That is not to discourage anyone from pursuing that goal. It just may be some would be better prepared by entering the workforce first and this program helps in that regard."

If there was one magic moment during his years directing the Chamber, it happened in March 2009. "We found out Harris Teeter announced it would close its Albemarle location," Ramsey said.

"The manager said he thought the decision was final. I asked what we could do."

What happened is what Ramsey said needs to happen throughout the county when it comes to the economic betterment of the area. Come together.

"Everybody was on the phone with each other and Harris Teeter got more than 700 calls and emails within hours," he said.

"They announced the store would remain open within a few days. That's what happens when everyone works together."

He said there weren't many disappointments, but mentions the prolonged discussions between Alcoa and the county as "not very helpful."

"The Chamber did not take sides on the issue. Alcoa is still an active member of the

Chamber. We have an excellent relationship with the county. But the fact it hung on that long probably did not cast a good image on Stanly County," Ramsey said.

"The only time we ever got covered or noticed was when it had to do with that issue."

He said he was "very pleased when there was a settlement. I commend the two parties for settling that. What it means is we can move on to other issues that can make a difference such as education and recruiting businesses."

As Ramsey leaves his post, he does so with a busy schedule ahead for the next few weeks.

The Chamber will initiate the new class of Leadership Stanly and host its annual Business Expo, which is already successful by the number of participants who have signed to be there.

He will do that while guiding his successor, Kathy Almond, into her new role which begins officially Oct. 1.

Ramsey has no worries about the job Almond will do, taking into account her already being active with the Chamber and a superb board of directors.

"I will never be able to express how much I have appreciated the board and their support in all we've done," he said.

"They are volunteers and yet they are always there and do what needs to be done. With their support and enthusiasm, they have been great to work with.

"We have the best staff with Stephanie Gresham and Winona Vullo who always work hard to make everything we do successful as well as being there to help our members in any way they need us," he said.

His advice to Almond or to anyone else in the post is to keep focused on the main reason the Chamber exists.

"Just help people to find what they need and go the extra mile and everything else will be fine," Ramsey said.

Ramsey has some parting shots as to what he's learned and what the county should learn about the local economy.

"I think you need to keep the personal touch. Call people back. But you can't do everything," he said.

"I said I'd get by and see every member the first year. I found I couldn't. But I still try to communicate as much as possible."

He said he would put a personal note on each yearly fee announcement and one when it was received.

"The Chamber can't be all things to all people. My successor needs to always ask if it is something that is part of what the mission is and what we do," Ramsey said.

He said there are many people in the business of economic development and commends the county for funding a separate economic commission.

"(Economic Development Director) Paul Stratos can do the hard fast economic development. He understands the land use and utilities and you have to have someone doing all of that," he said.

"We shouldn't lose sight of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, where we have more and more people coming through here. People come from all over.

"I have no problem with the cities doing more in economic development on their own part as long as they try to coordinate their efforts."

"I encourage people to work together, but if a group can financially commit to have more work for the good of the county, who is

going to complain? We're going to get more jobs and that's the goal."

Ramsey has received praise from his Chamber colleagues for his leadership of the organization.

"Even during a down economy, under his leadership the Chamber has grown and thrived," Past Chamber Chairman Matt Smith said.

"He has also been very instrumental in making our chamber a strong voice in the community that works hard to bring people together and build a better business environment in Stanly County."

Current Chamber President Bill Lawhon echoed Smith's remarks.

"He has been good for our chamber, working extremely hard to bring our community of businesses together," Lawhon said."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2009, the day I took office, the national debt was \$10,627,961,295,930.67.

Today, it is \$16,738,454,664,319.38. We've added \$6,110,493,368,388.71 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a Balanced Budget Amendment. We must stop this unconscionable accumulation of debt.

HONORING THE NON-DENOMINATION HOUSE OF PRAYER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Christian organization, The Non-Denomination House of Prayer.

The Non-Denomination House of Prayer was founded in 1948 by Pastor Charity Waffer in the historical city of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. Pastor Waffer was the first female pastor in the Mississippi Delta. As a pastoral pioneer she was instrumental in opening doors for women and youths through various church auxiliaries and functions. Her leadership guided many to various freedoms and liberties.

The current overseer is Dr. Earnestine Flowers which over sees other churches in Mississippi with the communities of Duncan, Batesville, Sardis, Oxford and in Chicago, Illinois. The Non-Denomination House of Prayer in the City of Mound Bayou current ministerial leaders are Pastor Willie Joe Flowers, Assistant Pastor Carl Henry, and Minister Martha Sanders. They have increased the church membership and have embarked on renovating and expanding their facilities in order to continue to be a blessing to its members,

community, and surrounding communities by being able to be a place of refuge to those who are hungry physically and spiritually and by offering comprehensive programs to meet the needs of others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Non-Denomination House of Prayer for their dedication in being a corner stone in the Mound Bayou Community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Mr. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately on September 19, 2013, I missed rollcall vote No. 473 on H. Res. 352. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF TED MATHIS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the life and service of Northwest Florida's beloved Ted Mathis. The passing of this kind-hearted man and dedicated public servant will undoubtedly be felt throughout the entire Northwest Florida community.

Mr. Mathis was born on February 5, 1932 in Bath, South Carolina. Following High School, he entered into the United States Navy, where he honorably served and quickly rose through the ranks. As a graduate with an engineering degree from the University of South Carolina and a retired Naval Officer, Mr. Mathis then joined NASA working in the field of research and development. While there, he supported the Scout Launch Vehicle Program and invented a cooling system for payloads. His career eventually brought him to Florida's great Gulf Coast region, where he and his family became part of the Crestview community. Mr. Mathis continued to support our Nation's Armed Forces as a civil service engineer at Eglin Air Force Base and became active in local government and a member of the First United Methodist Church. It became evident the dedication and love Mr. Mathis had for bettering the local community and the lives of those around him during his years in Northwest Florida, especially during his tenure as City Council Member and four terms as Mayor of Crestview.

A loving and devoted family man, full of passion, generosity, and love for God and country, Mr. Mathis is remembered fondly by those he has served with throughout his life and those whose lives have been forever touched. We are truly blessed to have had such a great public servant dedicate his life to the people of Northwest Florida and our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of Ted Mathis. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers and sincerest condolences to his wife of

63 years, Joyce; children, Gaye Mathis Helms and husband, Dennis, Joy Mathis, Greg Mathis and wife, Evelyn, Karen Mathis, and Steve Mathis and wife, Deana; nine grandchildren, Christopher Mathis, Kyle Hyden, Keith Helms, Kasey Helms, Kelly Batson, Lindsey Johnson, Matthew Mathis, Landis Mathis-Booker and Erin Johnson; eight great-grandchildren; and the entire Mathis family. Mr. Mathis will truly be missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

HONORING TYLER W. SHIPMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler W. Shipman. Tyler is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tyler has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Tyler has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Tyler performed needed work on the landscaping of the front office building at Weston Bend State Park near Weston, Missouri, adding decorative rock around the building and flagpole while also painting the railings and posts at the main gate.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tyler W. Shipman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO TEXAS PANHANDLE HONOR FLIGHT

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 102 veterans from Texas who visited Washington, D.C. last week with the Texas Panhandle Honor Flight. My wife, Sally, and I had the distinct pleasure of welcoming these heroes to the Capitol building.

The veterans on this flight were: Accurso, Charles; Anders, Troy; Ash, David; Austin, Carlos; Bailey, Bruce; Barbee, J.G.; Barron, Bobby; Berend, Raymond; Blackburn, Gerald; Blevins, Howard; Box, Kenneth; Burch, Darrell; Burgess, E.R.; Carter, Terry; Chadwick, James; Chester, Joe; Cobb, Steven; Cornelius, Gayle; Counsellar, William; Creek, James; Davis, Ervin; Denman, Roy; Dibala, Daniel; Dickerman, Lesley; Dill, Kenneth; Ebeling, Marshall; Enevoldsen, Jerome; Perez, Frank; Fisher, Robert; Fowler, Jimmy; Gamble, Rupert; Garcia, Edward; Garner, Olin; George, Aubrey; Gibson, Walter; Glosson, Paul; Graham, Lester; Greathouse, William; Henning, Gary; Hetrick, John; Higley, Richard;

Holland, Hugh; Holland, Otis; Holland, Buford; Horn, Olan; Irwen, Joe; James, Kelsey; Jenssen, Dan; Kirby, Freddy; Knuchel, Mike; Larned, James; Lewis, Herbert; Lynch, Earl; Macias, Valentin; Mann, Joe Bob; Mann, Bobby Joe; Martin, Gerald; McNally, Peter; Miller, Gene; Miller, Alton; Miller, Douglas; Moore, Jerry; Morton, Elwyn; Nurek, Steven; Ogle, Ronald; Parsons, Leonard; Peach, James; Penn, Billy; Pohlmeier, Gregory; Rakes, Edwin; Reed, James; Ricks, Don; Rider, Gary; Rider, Emery; Ridgway, Wendell; Riggins, Hubert; Ritter, Henry; Robinett, Thomas; Robinson, Jack; Robinson, Joe; Rogers, Garlon; Romo, Jesse; Roybal, Roberto; Smith, Stacey; Smith, Donald; Sollis, J.W.; Spell, Dalton; Stoops, Richard; Todd, Kenneth; Tomme, Michael; Trosper, Oscar; Waller, Jack; Warren, Bobby; Werschky, Samuel; Werschky, Carlton; Wetsel, Todd; Whiteley, George; Willingham, Randall; Willis, Howard; Wilson, William; York, James; and Yosten, Gilbert.

I was honored to have the opportunity to visit with these veterans and the volunteers who traveled with them and show them around the Capitol building, which in many ways is the center of this democracy for which they fought. These men and women remind us all of the great sacrifices so many generations of Americans have made for our nation and the freedoms we hold so dearly. The service they rendered to our country can never be fully repaid, but I hope that their visit to Washington, D.C. was a reminder of the gratitude and respect we have for them.

Colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and their families for their exemplary dedication and service to this great nation. I want to extend a special thank you to the local communities, all of the volunteers, America Supports You Texas, and Mr. Larry Lewis for their extensive work in organizing this Honor Flight. This trip would not have been possible without all of the financial and emotional support from those people.

100TH VICTORY FOR COACH BOB CHRISTMAS

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate North Hall Football Coach Bob Christmas on his 100th win.

The North Hall Football program is 57 years old. For the first 44 years of that program, the school accumulated only 118 wins. As a North Hall graduate, I was pleased to see Coach Christmas take over the Trojan football program in the year 2000. In just over 12 years, Coach Christmas has accumulated 4 regional titles, 2 semifinal appearances, and has taken the team to the state playoffs 8 times.

On September 13th, Coach Bob Christmas celebrated a milestone—his 100th win. This victory against the Jefferson High School Dragons means that Coach Christmas now holds 46 percent of the total football wins at the school.

Under Coach Bob Christmas, the reputation of the Trojan football program has gone from "it's just North Hall" to "we are North Hall!" Our community is proud of what Coach Christmas has done and continues to do, and I wish him continued success.